Department of Public Health and Human Services Quality Assurance Division, Certification Bureau

Requirements for Paid Feeding Assistants

Federal Requirements

§483.35 Dietary Services

The facility must provide each resident with a nourishing, palatable, well-balanced diet that meets the daily nutritional and special needs of each resident.

(h) Paid feeding assistants-State approved training course. A facility may use a paid feeding assistant, as defined in § 488.301 of this chapter, if-

State Agency Policies

(h) Paid feeding assistants-State-approved training course.

Definition: A paid feeding assistant means an individual employed by, or under contract to, a nursing facility to feed or assist with the feeding of nursing facility residents.

- 1. Curriculum. Any facility that wishes to use paid feeding assistants must provide the State Survey and Certification Bureau with a copy of their complete curriculum, teacher guide, student workbooks and learning materials and training schedule for review. Following the review, the Bureau will notify the facility of its findings by letter. Any recommendations for additions and/or changes to the submitted materials will be contained in this letter. If any additions or changes are required, the facility must submit documentation of how these additions and/or changes will be incorporated into their program. The facility must notify the Bureau of the date of planned implementation prior to final approval. Final approval will by letter from this Bureau. Any substantial changes to a program after it has been approved must be submitted to the Bureau for review and re-approval.
- 2. Instructors. The primary instructor(s) of the course must be a licensed health care professional with experience in nutrition and feeding of nursing facility residents. Licensed health care professionals could include licensed nurses, dietitian, and speech and occupational therapists. Supplemental instructors may be utilized to instruct trainees in those portions of the curriculum for which they have expertise (e.g., Heimlich maneuver, resident rights). Note: Certified nurse aides and feeding assistants may not be used as instructors.
- (i) The feeding assistant has successfully completed a State-approved training course that meets the requirements of § 483.160 before feeding the residents;
- (i) Successful completion of a State-approved training course means that the trainee has successfully passed the training course. The instructor must verify in writing the successful

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and completion of the course, including a competency evaluation (test). Testing materials must be included in the training materials submitted to the Bureau for approval. Verification of competency must be filed in the trainee's personnel or training file. The State Agency has developed a skills checklist that may be utilized to verify competency. (ii) State law does not address the use of feeding assistants in nursing homes. Federal requirements (ii) The use of feeding assistants is consistent with State are being adopted by the Department to promote law. quality of care to residents of nursing homes, by allowing nursing homes to utilize paid feeding assistants to enhance their dining programs. (2) Supervision. (i) A feeding assistant must work (2) Supervision. (i) A feeding assistant must work under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN) or under the supervision of a registered nurse (RN) or licensed practical nurse (LPN). Supervision means licensed practical nurse (LPN). the general supervision of the feeding assistant by licensed nurses who are working on the premises of the facility during the times the feeding assistant(s) is performing feeding tasks. (ii) In an emergency, a feeding assistant must call a supervisory nurse for help on the resident call (ii) In an emergency, a feeding assistant must call a supervisory nurse for help on the resident call system. system. When feeding residents in their rooms, the feeding assistant must call a supervisory nurse on the call system when any problems occur. The facility must have a system in place to notify a supervisory nurse when feeding assistants are feeding residents in areas of the facility (e.g., dining rooms/areas) that have no resident call system. (3) Resident selection criteria. (3)Resident selection criteria. (i) A facility must ensure that a feeding assistant (i) A facility must ensure that a feeding assistant feeds feeds only residents who have no complicated only residents who have no complicated feeding feeding problems. problems. (ii) Complicated feeding problems include, but are (ii) Complicated feeding problems include, but are not not limited to, difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung limited to, difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral/IV feedings. aspirations, and tube or parenteral/IV feedings. (iii) The facility must base resident selection on the (iii) The facility must base resident selection on the charge nurse's assessment and plan of care. charge nurse's assessment and plan of care. § 483.160 Requirements for training of paid feeding assistants. (a) Minimum training course contents. A Stateapproved training course for paid feeding assistants (a) Minimum training course contents. A Stateapproved training course for paid feeding assistants must must include no less than 8 hours of training, 6

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hours of which must be in classroom instruction and

include, at a minimum, 8 hours of training in the

following:	2 hours in clinical demonstrations. Course content
	must include:
	(1) Feeding techniques and
(1) Feeding techniques.	(2) Assistance with feeding and hydration. Content
(2) Assistance with feeding and hydration.	meet these areas of instruction should include:
	-Proper nutrition (basic food groups, general and therapeutic diets, mechanically altered diets)Food likes and dislikes; obtaining substitutionsAdaptive feeding equipment (sippy/nosey cups, lidded mugs, weighted utensils, scoop plates, plate guards, non-slip pads, braces/splints, etc.) -Consistency of foods and fluids, alternating solids and liquids, bite size and rate of feedingProper positioning of resident and feeding assistant at mealsResident and tray preparationsEncouraging independence.
	-Assisting residents who need supervision and
	cueing.
	-Assisting residents with partial physical assistanceFeeding the totally dependent residentAssisting the blind.
	(3) Communication and interpersonal skills to
(3) Communication and interpersonal skills.	include: - Verbal and non-verbal communication Focusing conversations toward residents Individualizing communication with each residentReporting refusals to eat -Reporting amounts of food and fluids consumed (% of meals eaten: measurement of liquids).
(4) Appropriate response to resident behavior.	(4) Appropriate responses to resident behaviorFactors relating to inappropriate behavior; i.e. (confusion, depression, anxiety, disruption, disorientation, wandering)
	-Techniques to gain residents' cooperation.
(5) Safety and emergency procedures, including the Heimlich maneuver.	(5) Safety and emergency procedures.-Heimlich maneuver-Safe food temperatures
	(6) Infection Control.
(6) Infection control.	-Hand washing techniques
	-Proper use of gloves -Proper handling of food, utensils, and dishware.
(7) Resident rights.	(7) Resident Rights. Instruction in residents rights must include: -the rights specified in CFR 483.10 of the Long Term Care requirements, and -the rights specified in the Montana Codes

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Annotated, Sections 50-5-1101 through 50-5-1106. (8) Recognizing changes in residents that are (8) Recognizing changes in residents that are consistent consistent with their normal behavior and the with their normal behavior and the importance of importance of reporting these changes to the reporting those changes to the supervisory nurse. supervisory nurse. - Identifying change in eating patterns. -Reporting observations while feeding residents. (i.e., pocketing food, poor fitting dentures/edentulous, vomiting, choking while eating, acute illness). (9) Maintenance of records. A facility must (9) Maintenance of records. A facility must maintain a maintain a record of all individuals used by the record of all individuals, used by the facility as feeding facility as feeding assistants, who have successfully assistants, who have successfully completed the training completed the training course for paid feeding course for paid feeding assistants. assistants. The record must be kept on file in either the trainee's personnel or training file.

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